

ABSTRACT

A method of treating samples containing hepatitis C virus (HCV) which method comprises treating HCV-  
5 containing samples with a treating agent containing (1) an acidifying agent, and (2) a protein-denaturing agent, or an amphoteric surfactant or a cationic surfactant having both a straight chain alkyl group of 10 or more carbon atoms and a tertiary amine or a quaternary ammonium salt in the same molecule, to effect the release  
10 of the HCV antigen and the inactivation of antibodies that bind to the HCV antigen, and the like.